

February 15, 1973

Mrs. David A. Miller  
1915 Sandy Court  
Mansfield, Ohio 44904

Dear Mrs. Miller:

To the best of my knowledge, hyaline membrane disease is not heritable. There should be no further problems with your three and one-half month-old son.

Dr. MacFarlane is correct in that the condition is more common in babies of diabetic women but the reason is not known. Yes, indeed, there is much research going on in this field, some of it being done by grantees of the March of Dimes.

I should think that if you keep the record of your own potential diabetic state and follow the recommended treatment, the chance of having another infant with this lung problem is considerably less than 90%. It usually happens to small babies born ahead of time, but since you had gestational diabetes he weighed six pounds, 14 ounces.

There are some new tests which would help in determining whether your next baby is making enough enzymes to allow him to be delivered safely. I'm sure that Dr. MacFarlane knows about Dr. Louis Gluck's test for sphingo-myelin-lecithin ratio, determined from amniotic fluid toward the end of pregnancy.

Thank you for writing me.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Apgar, M.D., M.P.H.

VA:bm

bcc: VL